

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Erickson, Carl Soderburg, Rosemary Desisles, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Jim Haskins, Joe Witkowski, Ed Koslowski, Jerry Polus

EXCUSED: Sherry Steenbock

****Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1513**

1. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:00 p.m.

2. Invocation by Jim Haskins.

3. Approve/Modify Agenda.

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Delores Pierce to approve the agenda. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. Approve or Modify Minutes of January 21, 2014.

**Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Ed Koslowski to approve the minutes. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. Air Force Band of Mid America performance, Sunday, April 13/Green Bay West High School.

CVSO Jerry Polus reported that the performance by the Air Force Band of Mid America will be held on April 13, 2014 at Green Bay West High School. The time for the performance has not been determined yet. Polus continued that the band will be coming to Green Bay in two weeks for a preliminary visit to view the venue. Polus will be working on a poster and will have a draft available for the next meeting. He would like to use this concert as a fundraiser for Veterans Court. Admission to the concert will be free, but donations will be accepted. All area veterans' organizations will be invited. Erickson asked if any volunteers were necessary and several Subcommittee members said they would be happy to help out. The auditorium at West seats about 900 on the main floor with extra seating in the balcony.

6. Any new discussion regarding Veterans Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.

Haskins stated that he and Duane Pierce continue to attend Fair Board meetings. He indicated that the Fair has advised them that they are not opposed to having the Miller beer logo on any signage. Koslowski stated that he will be giving a presentation at Triangle Distributing to see what exactly they are able to donate. The Fair Board would like to rent a tent for the Subcommittee's use to remain set up for the duration of the Fair. Ed Koslowski indicated that if the tent is up for the duration of the Fair it would have to be manned continuously and there was concern about getting enough volunteers to do this. Koslowski asked Polus for a list of veterans' organizations so he could provide them with information. Polus indicated that he is in the process of updating the list because a number of contacts have changed and he will provide the updated list to Koslowski at the next meeting. Koslowski indicated he would like to see the posters and tickets mailed out in June so the

organizations can hand them out at their July meetings. Erickson felt that was a good idea but felt that posters should not go up until July.

7. Discussion re: Providing Information to Museum for World War I Exhibit.

Erickson stated that he received a call from the Museum with regard to the World War I exhibit that is now open. He stated that the exhibit is quite impressive and he noted that there is free Museum admission on Wednesday nights from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Erickson stated that information will be provided to the Museum as to what the Veterans Office does and what the role of this Subcommittee is.

8. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.

Polus reported that Veterans Court is doing extremely well and currently there are 24 participants. Court is held from 9:30 – 11:00 am on Friday mornings. They have a great group of mentors, including two women mentors.

Polus also mentioned that he has received the \$25,000 check from Walmart that he spoke about at the last meeting and it is now in the emergency fund. This fund is typically used for such things as rent, gas and groceries, however, Polus reported that he recently had a request from a vet for a Kindle to be used during recuperation from surgery. Polus stated that he had denied this request but asked the Subcommittee if anyone knew of any businesses that may be able to donate something like this. A discussion resulted in several ideas and Pierce suggested that the vet contact the Desert Vets as they may be able to help out.

9. Comments from Carl Soderburg.

Soderburg commented on two things. First, he confirmed that the reversal of the cost of living adjustment has been passed and has been signed by the President.

The second thing that Soderburg commented on was that the IRS has been auditing Veterans posts. In the past year there have been several cases where posts have been fined \$1,000 a day for not having records available that showed that all members were Veterans. The IRS's position is that Posts need to have the DD214 for all members. Koslowski expanded on this and stated that the Amvets got a letter from national over a year ago and they want the Post to handle the DD214 for each person. He is telling his people not to take on that responsibility but to make sure that the people in the Post have access to it. Soderburg stated that the audits typically happen to Posts that have bars and restaurants.

10. Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Desisles, Haskins, Koslowski, Maino, Ness, Pierce, Steenbock & Witkowski).

-Erickson shared that he recently discovered that Home Depot offers a 10% discount to veterans every day with proper ID such as a veterans drivers' license or discharge papers.

-Desisles reported that the Navy League has now had their second meeting. During this meeting they decided that they would like to support the Sea Perch program. Information on this program was provided to those in attendance by Desisles and a copy of the same is attached. Sea Perch is an innovative underwater robotics program that equips teachers and students with the resources they need to build an underwater remotely operated vehicle in an in-school or out-of-school setting. The Navy League would like to have an event at the Neville Public Museum with the Sea Cadets for parents and students where the Cadets can demonstrate what they do and have a Sea Perch on display so people can see it. This event could be used as a kick off to the Honor Run/Walk later in the year.

-Desisles also stated that the movie *Lone Survivor* has been released. It is about a Navy SEAL, Marcus Luttrell, from Texas who was assigned to a mission with three other SEALs to kill or capture a high ranking Taliban leader responsible for a number of killings in eastern Afghanistan. Luttrell was the only of the SEALs to survive the mission and has written a book about his experiences. Luttrell also spoke at a convention Desisles attended recently and she said his presentation was excellent.

-Haskins shared an article that was in the newspaper recently about a Veterans' lounge that was dedicated recently at UWGB. The lounge provides a space for student Veterans to gather for support, socialization, study and more. Haskins noted that there are over 400 individuals receiving Veterans' benefits at UWGB.

-Koslowski stated that he attended the dedication at UWGB that Haskins reported on. He stated the lounge is very nice and the dedication event was well attended and he noted that the lounge is also open for use by non-Veterans. Koslowski also shared some old service pictures that had been restored by Green Bay Blue. Witkowski suggested that thought be given to providing these pictures to the newspaper for publication.

-Pierce reported that the Spring booyah sale at Legion Post 11 will be held on April 26 and he urged people to get there early as the booyah is typically gone by noon. He also reported that the Obama administration has decided to try to resume talks with the Taliban to trade Taliban prisoners held at Guantanamo in exchange for return of the only known remaining US POW of this conflict, Bowe Bergdahl.

-Witkowski wished to recognize the POW/MIA chair. He also shared a book on Badger Honor Flight which had pictures of his cousin, Don Witkowski. Finally Witkowski presented Jim Haskins with a framed picture of him in front of the Schneider Ride With Pride truck that was taken at the Fair.

11. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.**

Erickson brought up the idea of a theme for the Fair. A discussion was held on this and Pierce felt that the name should remain as Veterans Appreciation Day, but then a specific group of Vets could be honored, similar to last year. The Subcommittee talked about honoring the Korean vets and Polus mentioned that it may be appropriate to honor female vets as well. It was decided to concentrate on the Korean Vets this year and honor female vets the following year.

12. **Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Rosemary Desisles to adjourn at 5:59 pm Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary

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About

What is SeaPerch?

SeaPerch is an innovative underwater robotics program that equips teachers and students with the resources they need to build an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) in an in-school or out-of-school setting. Students build the ROV from a kit comprised of low-cost, easily accessible parts, following a curriculum that teaches basic engineering and science concepts with a marine engineering theme. The SeaPerch Program provides students with the opportunity to learn about robotics, engineering, science, and mathematics (STEM) while building an underwater ROV as part of a science and engineering technology curriculum. Throughout the project, students will learn engineering concepts, problem solving, teamwork, and technical applications.

Building a SeaPerch ROV teaches basic skills in ship and submarine design and encourages students to explore naval architecture and marine and ocean engineering principles. It also teaches basic science and engineering concepts and tool safety and technical procedures. Students learn important engineering and design skills and are exposed to all the exciting careers that are possible in naval architecture and naval, ocean, and marine engineering.

SeaPerch Is...

- A hands-on educational tool
- Fun and challenging
- A curriculum that meets national learning standards
- Integrates STEM (Science, Engineering, Engineering, Mathematics)
- Teaches the teachers
- Builds teamwork and inspires young minds
- Introduces STEM career discussions

Students learn best by doing, and during the process of building SeaPerch, they follow steps to completely assemble the Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), test it, and then participate in launching their vehicles.

After the SeaPerch robot is constructed, students are encouraged to test their vehicles, deploy them on missions, and compete in a culminating event, the SeaPerch Challenge. Events at the Challenge can include:

- Vehicle performance - maneuvering and recovery
- Innovative design (optional)
- Poster presentations - oral presentations to judges

Winners of local or regional Challenges can compete in the [National SeaPerch Challenge](#), held each [Spring](#).

Teacher/Mentor Training Program

Online video training is available with full instructions on how to build the SeaPerch. The videos are in the beginner and advanced format, and they are supported at various times with live webcasts for troubleshooting.

On-site training is offered in several locations at set times throughout the year, currently Bethesda, MD, Annapolis, MD, and Newport, RI. If the trainee has travel funds available for hotel, transportation and travel expenses, the training on-site is at no charge. Meals during the training are included. If a group wishes to have a SeaPerch trainer travel to conduct training, this arrangement is possible if the schedule can be flexible. This event is a 1.5 day event.

Responsibilities of the local group wishing to host a training event include:

- Location and set up and any charges incurred for rental
- \$400 per trainee, which will include materials and meals during the actual training (2 continental breakfasts, 1 lunch)
- Making all local arrangements and procuring all necessary supplies and equipment requested based on the facility
- Administration of the training to include sign-up, name badges, attendance, a/v equipment

Continuing education and/or professional development credits may be offered, as educators are often required to attend workshops throughout the year.

Curriculum

The SeaPerch curriculum has been designed to meet many of the national learning standards identified by the government, as well as the new Common Core standards. With one project, schools are able to teach many of the concepts required for their grade level using a fun, hands-on activity for students. Some of the concepts the students learn during the build include:

- Ship and submarine design
- Buoyancy/displacement
- Propulsion
- Soldering/tool safety and usage
- Vectors
- Electricity/circuits and switches
- Ergonomics
- Waterproofing
- Depth measurement
- Biological sampling
- Attenuation of light

My SeaPerch Account

TEACH

BUILD

BECOME

Order Kits and Parts

SeaPerch Event Calendar

Add an Event

- Moment arm, basic physics of motion
- Career possibilities

Program Benefits

Meets National Learning Outcomes: The SeaPerch Program meets many of the national learning outcomes for science.

Supports Diversity: The program focuses on presenting the possibilities of technical careers to minorities, girls, and underrepresented populations.

Low Cost Per Student: The price per kit is low. Seed funding or subsidies may be available to help your program get started - the grants are 10 kits and one tool kit maximum per program, and are based on the completion of a grant request and meeting of the criteria. Also, the grants are based on the availability of funding.

Web Resources & Community: The SeaPerch website provides resources, tools, information, and a community.

Why SeaPerch?

The U.S. Needs Trained Engineers

The world is changing. Innovations transform our nation, creating whole new industries and occupations. Every job of the future will require a basic understanding of math and science. Science and technology careers exist in a culture of inspiration, discovery, and innovation. Advances in technology will have a meaningful impact on the lives of every American.

The U.S. has fallen from 3rd to 17th in the world in the number of college graduates in engineering programs. In the U.S., only 5% of science degrees are awarded in engineering, as compared with 50% in China. It is estimated that 400,000 engineers will be needed by 2014. If it is not addressed, the expected shortage of skilled workers could decrease the nation's global competitiveness and result in a lack of expertise in mission-critical areas.

STEM and the Future of the U.S. Navy

Inspiration, discovery, and innovation are the hallmarks of the Navy's Research Enterprise. Maintaining a technological edge requires a dynamic portfolio of scientific research and technology development, a culture of innovation, and the capacity to draw upon diverse ideas and approaches. Tomorrow's scientists and engineers will be at the heart of this innovation process. Without a steady stream of civilian and enlisted scientists and engineers, the Navy's ability to maintain its Science and Technology superiority will falter over time. Consequently, increasing the STEM pipeline has become a critical priority for the Navy so that we are capable of tackling the challenges of the future.

By offering a broad range of STEM education and outreach programs, the Navy seeks to address the national crisis of decreasing college enrollments and careers in science and engineering. Through programs like SeaPerch and the STEM2Stern Program, the goal is to engage and inspire young people by exposing them to exciting, hands-on, and mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, while at the same time fostering self-confidence and life skills.

The Story of SeaPerch

SeaPerch began as one project in a book entitled "How to Build an Underwater Robot," by Harry Bohm and Vickie Jensen. There were many projects in the book, and SeaPerch captured just two pages, with a parts list and instructions on how to assemble. Years later, Professor Thomas Consi at MIT developed a curriculum around the SeaPerch as a way to grow the Ocean Engineering Program at MIT. Realizing it was an interesting and compelling vehicle, MIT, Dr. Chryss Chrysostomides, and the Sea Grant office developed a teacher training program around the SeaPerch curriculum they had developed based on Bohm's and Jensen's book, and they began introducing it to teachers both in the New England area and beyond. The Office of Naval Research (ONR) provided some financial support to MIT to develop the teacher training program, through the NNRNE program (National Naval Responsibility for Naval Engineering).

Several years later, The Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME) had the vision to utilize their resources to manage the program and partner with ONR to take the SeaPerch Program from what was essentially a teacher training program and develop it into a true national program. ONR agreed to provide grant funding to develop an actual program, kit, and supporting materials, and to allow for the expansion of the program once developed. SNAME's efforts began to take root, and ONR expanded the grant to allow for the rapid growth of the program.

As of the fall of 2011, the SeaPerch Program is now managed by the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International Foundation (AUVSIF), and continues to expand nationally. In the past five years since the national program was conceived, over 50,000 students have participated in the SeaPerch Program.

Want to Learn More?



[SeaPerch Start-up Manual \(405 KB\)](#)



[Watch a short video about the SeaPerch Program](#)

The SeaPerch website is updated regularly. Please report any problems to info@seaperch.org.



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